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**LLANFYLLIN MUNICIPAL
BOROUGH**

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

YEAR 1954

R. A. Bryan, Printer, Llanfyllin.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

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The Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have been asked to assemble the relevant facts and figures relating to the Sanitary Authority of Llanfyllin Municipal Borough for the year 1954. I was not the Medical Officer during that year so that the information given below is entirely derived from two main sources, namely, the Llanfyllin Borough Sanitary Inspector and the Registrar General and his local Registrar for births and deaths.

To Mr. Ll. O. Evans, Cert.S.I.B., Cert.R.S.I. (Meats and other Foods), however, should go the main credit for the work done in compiling this report.

The report is drawn up in accordance with the instructions contained in Circular No. 28/54 of the Welsh Board of Health.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

IAN B. MILLAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

Llanfyllin Borough Council at 31st March, 1954.

The Mayor: Alderman J. LLOYD THOMAS, B.A., J.P.

Deputy Mayor: Alderman H. WATKINS.

Alderman J. HOWELLS.

Alderman D. JONES.

Councillors: H. BULLOCK.

E. REES DAVIES.

Rev. O. T. DAVIES.

J. E. EVANS.

REES LLOYD.

Miss E. A. MARTIN.

T. R. MORRIS.

J. M. OWEN.

E. I. REES.

A. W. WATKINS.

R. D. ROBERTS.

I. H. LEWIS.

Officers of the Council.

Town Clerk T. E. A. Jarvis, Solicitor.

Medical Officers Dr. Cernyw James, Llanfyllin
(until 1/10/54).

Dr. John Sleigh
(from 1/10/54 until 31/12/54)

Borough Surveyor and

Sanitary Inspector Ll. O. Evans, Cert.S.I.B., Cert.R.S.I.
(Meats and other Foods).

Borough Treasurer R. A. Birch, A.I.M.T.A., A.C.W.A.

Borough Collecting Officer Mrs. D. Astley.

SECTION "A".

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area of the District—8,143 acres.

Registrar General's estimate of resident population—1,340.

Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books—395.

Rateable Value at 31st March, 1954—£4,983.

Sum represented by Penny Rate—£19/6/9.

Births.

Legitimate.

Male	14	(3 born in the borough).
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Female	10	(2 born in the borough).
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Illegitimate.

Male	2	(1 born in the borough).
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Total	26	(6 born in the borough).
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Crude Birth Rate=19.4 births per 1,000 total population.

Corrected (for age and sex) Birth Rate=22.9 births per 1,000 total population.

Still Births — Nil.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year — Nil.

Deaths.

Cause	Male (Ages)	Female (Ages)	Total
Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	2 (70 & 49)	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm Lung and Bronchus	1 (71)	—	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	—	1 (75)	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	1 (62)	2 (81 & 75)	3
Other Heart Diseases	2 (82 & 65)	1 (59)	3
Other Circulatory Diseases	1 (86)	2 (77 & 81)	3
Bronchitis	—	1 (91)	1
All Causes	7	7	14

Crude Death Rate=10.45 per 1,000 total population.

Corrected (for age and sex) Death Rate=9.2 per 1,000 total population.

SECTION "B".

National Health Service Act, 1946.

The charge of duties under this Act remains with the County Medical Officer. This includes maternal health, health visiting, Home Nursing, Vaccination and Immunization, Ambulances, Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care, and Domestic Help.

SECTION "C".

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supplies.

(i) Quality.

To report upon the quality of the water supplies in this district it is necessary to distinguish between public supplies and supplies drawn from private sources.

The public supply is drawn from a well sunk in valley gravel. Samples of the supply are submitted to bacteriological examination each month and the results of such examinations have been consistently good since the source was brought into use in 1945. During the year under review 12 samples of the supply were bacteriologically examined, with the following results:—

- 10 samples were found to be highly satisfactory.
- 2 samples were found to be suspicious.

The private supplies are mostly from shallow wells or springs and detailed information regarding their quality is not available.

In general, however, I would not expect the quality of the private supplies to be good. During the year under review, two samples of privately owned water supplies were submitted to bacteriological examination with the following results:—

- 1 sample was found to be satisfactory.
- 1 sample was found to be suspicious.

(ii) Quantity.

To report upon the adequacy of the water supplies in the Borough it is again necessary to deal separately with those properties which are within reach of the public mains and those which have to rely on private supplies.

The public supply is adequate for all purposes. The dwellings and population supplied from the main are as follows:—

	No. of Dwellings.	Population.
Water laid on to house or curtilage	298	1,007
Drawing supplies from public standpipes	8	24

Dealing generally with the properties beyond the reach of the watermain there can be no doubt that during periods of drought the supplies are inadequate. The elevation of some properties makes it difficult to supply them economically but I consider that the watermains should be extended wherever possible so as to make the maximum use of an adequate source.

(iii) **Plumbo-Solvent Action.**

The public water supply is treated for the correction of pH value and I would not expect the water to have a marked aggressive action on metals.

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year the construction of a new sewerage scheme for the town was completed, thus enabling many houses to be provided with essential conveniences and abating conditions which had been objectionable for many years.

Closet Accommodation.

The construction of the new sewerage scheme made it possible to convert most of the pail closets in the town. At the end of the year, the work of conversion was not complete but good progress had been made and it appeared likely that all privies and pail closets in the town, numbering about 170, would be replaced by water closets in the near future.

Public Cleansing.

Throughout the year under review arrangements were in force for the weekly collection of house refuse from the built-up area of the district. The service was confined to the contents of bins and the refuse was disposed of on a tip situated outside the Borough.

Sanitary Inspections.

As a result of inspections made by the Council's Sanitary Inspector the following informal notices were served, with the results indicated.

No. of Notices Served	10
Complied with during the year	6
No statutory notices were served.	

Shops and Offices.

Informal action was taken regarding unsatisfactory conditions at one shop, and at the end of the year negotiations with the owners were proceeding.

Camping Sites.

There are no licensed camping sites in the district.

Smoke Abatement.

No action necessary during the year.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools in the area.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No action was necessary during the year.

Rodent Control.

The number of premises visited 135, out of which 17 were treated. The Refuse Tip was treated on one occasion.

The Sewers were test baited on two occasions and found to be clear of rats.

SECTION "D".

Housing.

No survey of housing conditions was carried out during 1954 but existing records give a clear picture of the situation.

Within the town 47 houses have been scheduled as unfit for human habitation and the following table shows the condition of these at the end of 1954.

Demolished	Not now used as dwellings	Vacant	Habited	Incorporated with other property	Total
11	9	3	23	1	47

It will be seen that approximately one half of the houses remain occupied.

The Council have built 37 houses on two housing estates and have acquired sites for a considerably larger number. This is no mean achievement for a district where the financial resources are so very limited, but the fact that so many unfit houses remain occupied points out the need for further new building.

The contribution of private enterprise to the housing problem in the district is not very great. During 1954 no private house was completed, while in the previous ten years only six private houses were erected.

By the standard laid down in the Housing Act, 1936, the number of houses overcrowded is very small.

Factories Act, 1937.

No action was taken under this Act in the Borough during the year.

SECTION "E".

Food.

The Welsh Board of Health, in their circular 28/54 (Wales), stated that the following information should be included in the report:—

(1) There were in the district at the end of 1954 the following numbers of premises where food is prepared, sold or stored:

Bakehouses	....	....	....	...	0
Butcher's Shops	....	....	....	....	2
Fried Fish and Chip Shops	....	....	....	....	1
General Provisions Shops	....	....	....	....	4
Greengrocer's Shops	....	....	....	....	3
Cafes	....	....	....	....	3
Confectioner's Shops	....	....	....	....	3
Licensed Premises	....	....	....	....	6

(2) Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act requires the registration of all premises used for the manufacture or sale of ice cream or the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale. The following numbers of premises are so registered:

For the sale of ice cream	5
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(3) Five inspections of registered food premises were made during the year. One sample of ice cream was taken for analysis and was found to be Grade 1.

(4) Educational activity in relation to food hygiene was confined to advice and discussion during routine inspection of food premises.

(5) No slaughterhouse was in operation in the district during the year and no meat or other food was condemned.

SECTION "F".

Notification of Infectious Diseases.

Tuberculosis of Lungs	....	....	....	1 Female aged 35 years.
Tuberculosis (other forms)	1 Female aged 10 years.

Others:

Scarlet Fever	2 cases.
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Whooping Cough	10 cases.
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1 Male aged less than 1 year.

2 Males aged 1—2 years.

3 Females aged 3—4 years.

3 Females aged 5—9 years.

1 Female aged 10—14 years.

Food Poisoning	Nil.
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National Assistance Act, 1948.—Section 47.

No action was taken under this section in the Borough during the year.

